

DECEMBER

at the

CALIFORNIA ACADEMY OF SCIENCES

DECEMBER MEETING

Date: Thursday, December 13, 8:15 p.m.

Place: Morrison Auditorium

Speaker: Walter J. Breckenridge

Subject: "ISLAND TREASURE"

The island referred to in the title of this second in the 1962-63 series of Audubon Screen Tours is a tiny one located in the Mississippi River. Mr. Breckenridge, who is director of the Minnesota Museum of Natural History, has known this island and studied it as few islands have been studied.

For years he has followed its seasons, lived along with its wildlife. He knows the age of its soft-shelled turtles; has watched a beaver cut a cottonwood 20 inches in diameter; seen the raccoons establish winter dens in a twisted elm tree; greeted the great blue heron on its return in the spring; and watched wood ducks nest in trees. The film is a graphic study of wildlife in Minnesota - a brilliant color motion picture of the world of nature.

MORRISON PLANETARIUM

Beginning December 4 and extending through January 1, Morrison Planetarium once again presents its traditional holiday show, "THE STAR OF BETHLEHEM", a journey back in time to witness the heavens as they were at the Birth of Christ. Adults, 75¢, Juniors, 40¢.

Performances:

Monday Closed

Tuesday 3:30 p.m. only

Wed, Thurs, Fri 3:30 & 8:30 p.m.

Saturday, Sunday 2:00, 3:30 & 8:30 p.m.

Notes: No performances on Christmas Day.

Extra performances at 2:00 every day from December 26 through January 1.

SPECIAL EXHIBIT

Exhibit of the Month: "ASTROLABE" from the collection of Mr. Bruce Kock. Main Foyer, Science Museum.

"SCIENCE IN ACTION"

Monday nights, 7:00 p.m., KRON-TV, Channel 4

December 3: "HYBRID ROCKETS", with Guest Scientist Dr. J. Edmund Fitzgerald, Lockheed Propulsion Company.

December 10: "THE ULTRACENTRIFUGE", with Dr. Edward Pickels, Beckman Instrument Corporation.

December 17: "LUNAR LANDING EXCURSION", with Jack M. Vogel, United Technology Corporation.

December 24: "CARTOON CHARACTERS AND HOW THEY GROW", with Jay Ward, creator of TV's Bullwinkle.

NEWS and NOTES

Through the terms of a grant made by the National Science Foundation to the Academy, the Department of Entomology will be able to continue its planned five year program of rehabilitation of the entomological collections within the Department. The work was begun in mid-1959 and extended for a period of three years, all done through the generosity of the Foundation. This newest grant will make it possible to bring the curatorial requirements up-to-date during the next two years.

An immediate result of this welcome support has been the employment, full-time, of Kathleen Hale, Preparator in the Department. Miss Hale is a former student at the College of Marin.

Dr. Robert T. Orr, Curator of Birds and Mammals, and his wife, Dorothy, are the authors of a new and unusual handbook published recently by the University of California Press, the eighth in its series of California Natural History Guides. The title: "Mushrooms and Other Common Fungi of the San Francisco Bay Region".

Mycology has been a fascinating "hobby" with the Orrs for many years and this excellent and attractive volume is the result. Handsome color plates and numerous line drawings, the latter excuted by Jacqueline Shonewald (see Meet the Staff, Newsletter, November 1962), illustrate the book. For readers who are interested in either the scientific aspects of fungi or in being able to determine the edibility of certain species, this handy, pocket-size volume is perfect for those walks in the woods. Copies of the book are available at the Academy sales desks.

IF YOU PLEASE,

we would like to remind all Academy members that contributions to the CAS are tax deductible and that your further support will permit an extension of the Academy's activities and services. It can be like saying Merry Christmas to the world.

The Department of Exhibits continues to add to the permanent displays in the Alice Eastwood Hall of Botany. Cases have been completed on "The Flower", "California Pines", and "Common Fruits". In preparation are individual exhibits on "California Ferns" and "Plants Used by California Indians".

Preliminary arrangements are being made in the J.W. Mailliard, Jr., Library for sorting and correlating the personal papers of Mr. G.P. Rixford. Mr. Rixford and his son, Dr. Emmet Rixford, were actively associated with the Academy for many years, both having served as Officers and as Librarians on the Academy Council.

The elder Mr. Rixford's extensive horticultural and botanical library came as a gift to the Academy after his death. His personal papers, once arranged, will be an important addition to the Academy archives. The work is being done by Mrs. James Campbell, who has graciously volunteered her services on this and previous such projects.

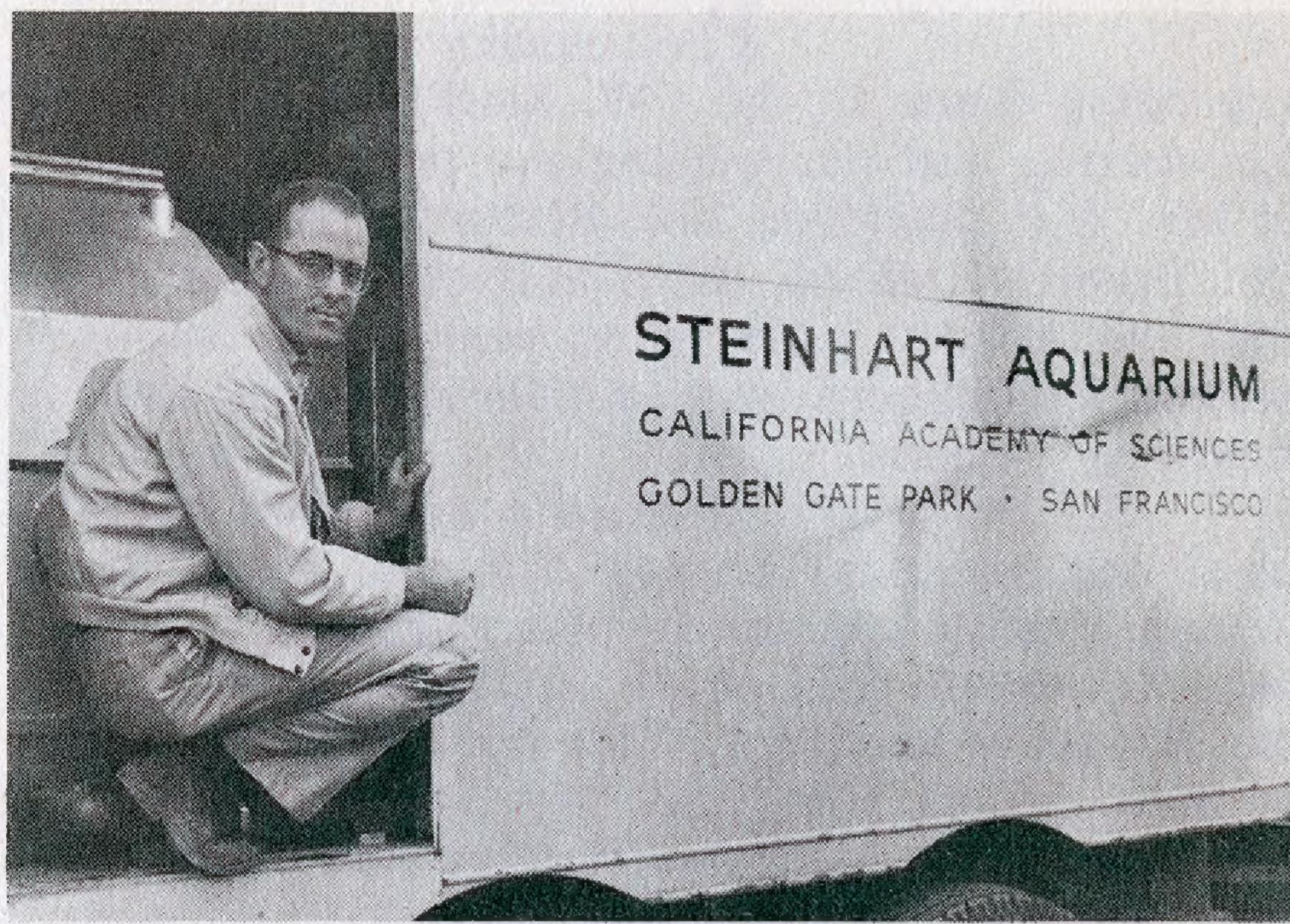
Any additional letters or documents pertinent to the Rixfords which members may have will be gratefully accepted by the library. They should be directed to Veronica J. Sexton, Academy Librarian.

In the recently completed United Bay Area Crusade, members of the Academy staff exceeded their 1962 goal by 20%, having contributed a total of \$1,011.00. The original pledge was \$838.00.

Doubleday & Company, Inc. have announced a second printing of Dr. Earl S. Herald's book, "Living Fishes of the World", published in March 1961, the first edition of 10,000 copies having been sold out. Five foreign editions, Spanish, Dutch, Danish, Italian and German have been or are soon to be released. The German edition, now in its second printing, totals 30,000 copies.

Together with the English Speaking Union, the California Historical Society, the Sir Francis Drake Association, the Marin Historical Society, the Conference of California Historical Societies and the Drake Navigators Guild, the Academy sponsored a Drake Luncheon at the Sir Francis Drake Hotel in San Francisco on November 15. Among the honored guests at the luncheon was His Royal Highness, Prince Philip, the Duke of Edinburgh, who at that time, was visiting the Bay Area in connection with London Week.

Meet the Staff



WALTER SCHNEEBELI, Collector for Steinhart Aquarium, has always been interested in the sea and the seashore, fish and fishing. As a child, he maintained aquaria, collected sea shells, and fished off the piers at Fisherman's Wharf in San Francisco.

A native San Franciscan, he was educated locally. Upon leaving school, a variety of jobs (lead miner, logger, apprentice mechanic) took him temporarily from the shore line that was his primary interest. However, in February of 1948 he came to Steinhart as an Aquarist. Then came the Korean War and for some strange reason, and one only known to the military, Walt found himself in France where he spent one and a half years. On his discharge from the Army, he returned to the Academy as a Collector, a position to which he had been appointed shortly, before the Korean draft.

His job, a diversified and often hazardous one involving seining, hook-and-line fishing and Scuba diving, has taken him as far to the south as Mexico and north to the waters of Puget Sound in pursuit of hundreds of thousands of specimens needed by the Aquarium for various purposes. Of the hundreds of incidents that have happened to Walt, two stand out in particular: Collecting a Senorita, a type of Wrasse, in San Francisco Bay, the last such having been reported in the 1880's; and delivering a 9' Great White Shark to the Aquarium from Tomales Bay. Unfortunately, the shark did not survive due to the unfortunate way it had been captured initially by nonprofessionals.

Off duty, Walt is an habitual Bay swimmer, having made 16 Gate swims (Fort Point, San Francisco, to Lime Point, Marin County) and one swim from Sausalito to San Francisco, a matter of three hours and six minutes. He owns a small apple orchard near Sebastopol, California and hopes one day, all things being equal, to become a farmer.

Currently, he is engrossed in stocking the rehabilitated Steinhart prior to its reopening in 1963. "We hope to have every local species represented, a really definitive collection of Pacific Coast fish," he said. "With luck, we'll have the best anywhere in the world!"

NEW MEMBERS OF THE ACADEMY

Regular Membership

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Mr. Leslie W. Hills	Dr. John Wagner
Mr. Joel Kirschbaum	Miss Triss Wallace
Mr. Kenneth J. Lutich	Mr. William P. Weaver

Contributing Membership

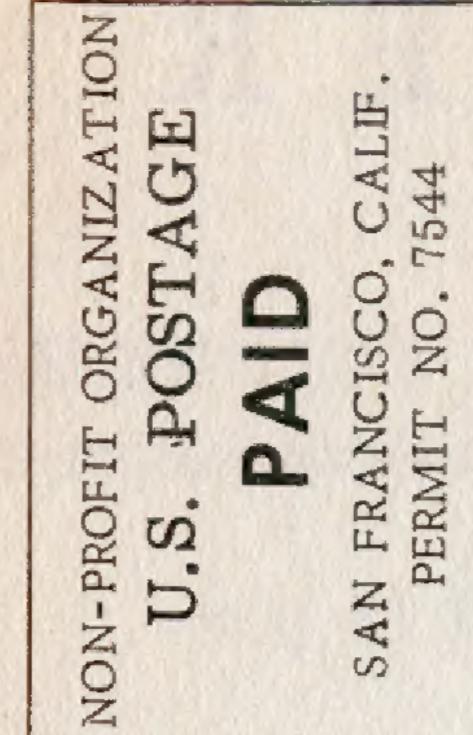
Mr. Duncan F. Fancher

Student Membership

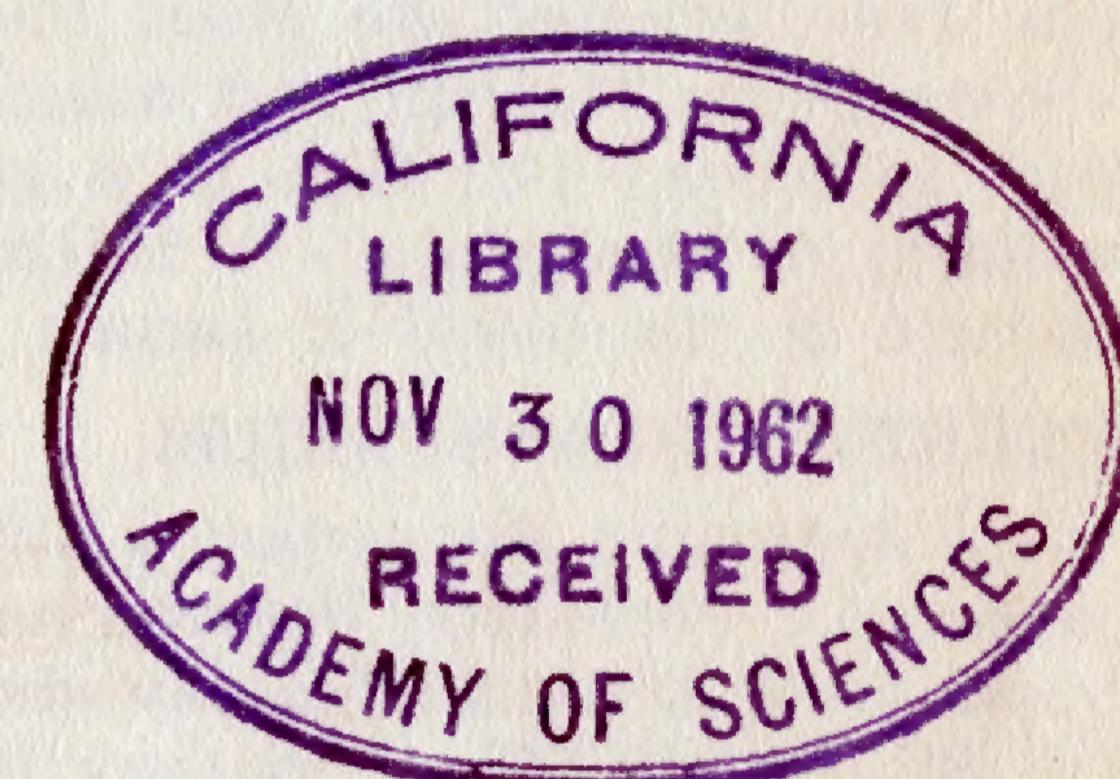
Mark Bates	Jeffrey Haratani
Jill Chioino	John S. Myszak
Thomas Colt	Vince Scotto
Jane Galdieri	Stephen Spane
Nancy Guerassio	Douglas Yasumura
Norman E. Hains, Jr.	Kathleen Yasumura

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